

The Daily Chieftain

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D. M. MARRS : Editor
Vinita, Okla., Friday, Feb. 5

The Weather.

Tonight fair, colder Saturday fair.

Local observations, for day preceding, furnished by C. E. Lahman:
Maximum temperature, 61 degs
Minimum temperature, 45 "
Temperature at 7 p. m., 61 "
Precipitation, traces. 0
Wind direction, south.
Clear.

"That the lands in the Cherokee nation reserved from allotment or sale under any act of congress for the use or benefit of any person, corporation or organization shall be conveyed to the person, corporation or organization entitled thereto. PROVIDED, That if any tract or parcel thus reserved shall before conveyance thereof be abandoned for the use for which it was reserved by the party in whose interest the reservation was made, such tract or parcel shall revert to the tribe and be disposed of as other surplus lands thereof. PROVIDED, That this section shall not apply to land reserved from allotment because of the right of any railroad or railway company there in the nature of an easement for right of way, depot, station grounds, water stations, stock yards, or other uses connected with the maintenance and operation of such company's railroad, title to which tracts may be acquired by the railroad or railway company under rules and regulations to be prescribed by the secretary of the interior at a valuation to be determined by him; but if any such company shall fail to make payment within the time prescribed by the regulations or shall cease to use such lands for the purpose for which it was reserved, title thereto shall thereupon vest in the owner of the legal subdivision of which the land so abandoned is a part, EXCEPT LANDS WITHIN A MUNICIPALITY THE TITLE TO WHICH, UPON ABANDONMENT, SHALL VEST IN SUCH MUNICIPALITY."

There are very few people in or out of Oklahoma who really believe Hearst or Roosevelt either cared a hoot who was indicted for town lot frauds at Muskogee.

The man who wantonly stabs his town by standing in the way of progress through prejudice is to be paid more than blamed, perhaps, but he should not be trusted in with authority or public place again.

We have with us today the committee of six of the two houses of the state legislature, sent here to inspect the place as a probable site for the hospital for the insane, state institution soon to be established by legislature. These gentlemen should be accorded every facility for investigation. We certainly have a fine location, as to accessibility, health, and every other thing that would make it a good site for such an institution.

The Muskogee Times-Democrat mentions a society event in that turbulent city that is worthy of the widest publicity. The Times-Democrat says that when the news of the indictment of Governor Haskell reached the street twenty men, "the brains, wealth and enterprise of Muskogee," were seated at dinner in evening suits at the palatial home of Judge Wayman C. Jackson. Immediately the snapping of champagne corks ceased and the twenty gentlemen in evening suits marched in a body to the sheriff's office and signed a bond for Governor C. N. Haskell.

Booker T. Washington makes this strong statement concerning the effect of the temperance movement in the South: "Since the emancipation proclamation by Abraham Lincoln there has been no benefit conferred upon the negroes of the South equal to that conferred by the closing up of the barrooms throughout these Southern states." He urges his colored brethren of the South, to help in every way in the upholding and enforcement of

these laws, and to refuse to patronize "blind tigers." Washington well knows where one of the chief dangers to his people lies.—State Capital.

There is a large class of citizens in the eastern half of Oklahoma who insist at this juncture that in some unseen way the state is to be injured by the prosecutions now pending in the town lot fraud cases at Muskogee. The Chieftain don't understand how the disapproval of these charges could affect the good name of the state, or of the individuals being investigated. The eight men indicted will have a day in court to disprove the charges embodied in the indictments recently returned against them. It would be superfluous to either condone or condemn at this stage of the proceedings.

Those who are at all familiar with the history of St. Louis can remember when Forest Park, embracing 2,600 acres, was bought for \$21,000, and there were some St. Louis people who declared the land was not worth the bond issue that was made to purchase it. Fifty million dollars would not begin to buy Forest Park in St. Louis today, and the city owns it. We have here an object lesson on perhaps a larger scale than will ever come to Vinita in a similar transaction, but the principle is the same. If Vinita acquires title to the Auditorium park at this time, within five years everybody will be willing to admit the wisdom of the deed. Those who want to see the city prosper should vote for the Auditorium proposition next Tuesday.

The Groom's Part.
When a girl gets married she is practically the whole show. The man only plays a sort of bridegroom obligation.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Great Minds for Great Things.
To accomplish great things argues great resolutions; to design great things implies no common mind.—Hazlitt.

First Be Sure You Are Right.
Italian proverb: It is unpleasant to turn back, though it be to take the right way.

Philosophic.
Clothes don't make the man; what's in the pockets doesn't, either.—Detroit Free Press.

Wood Paving Is a Russian Idea.
The Russians invented wood paving for streets.

Everything Rises to Its Level.
If better were within, better would come out.—German Proverb.

Deserved or Undeserved.
The sweetest of all sounds is praise.—Xenophon.

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DINED OFF COSTLY MUTTON.

Humorous Story of Old Times, Told by Washington Correspondent.

Out in Georgetown, says a Washington correspondent, there are many old homes, whose gray walls have withstood the ravages of the ages, and have weathered the gales that have swept the country in its shifting panorama of events. On the site of Georgetown college once rolled the broad acres owned by Protestant Thudkill, who gave his grounds to the Catholic church. The Thudkill family was one of culture and refinement, and the several institutions of learning that owe their origin to the older generations stand to-day as enduring monuments.

Of Protestant Thudkill, there is told an amusing story. It is related that at the time he resided on Georgetown Heights he was a noted breeder of live stock. When merino sheep first attracted attention in this country he had obtained a small flock, and had been negotiating for some time for a ram. At length it reached Washington. He mounted his horse and rode anxiously to see and possess it.

It was a splendid animal, with a price correspondingly high. He bought it, engaged a cart and negro driver and hastily addressed a note to Mrs. Thudkill, saying that several gentlemen would dine with them and to have especially a leg of mutton, cooked in superior style, adding, also: "The colored boy who delivers this takes over a splendid ram, please see to it."

The ram was tied up and the preliminaries of the feast arranged. In reference to the mutton Mrs. Thudkill consulted her steward and they concluded from the tenor of the note that the animal sent by the cart was to supply the leg of mutton for the festive board. So, accordingly, this costly and fine ram was slaughtered and his plump quarters dressed, garished and served.

After some preliminary libations at the sideboard the guests were seated and a generous slice of mutton was placed on each plate. They unanimously decided that it was very superior and the host heartily endorsed the sentiment and turned to his delighted spouse and inquired from which flock it had been taken. She, of course, responded: "It was the large ram you sent for the occasion this morning."

This was too much. The old gentleman's queue stood on end. His face was fairly purple. He rose from his chair, nearly upsetting the table. He brought his fist down with a thump, and, with an emphasis, sent his guests away convulsed with laughter, despite the fact that they had not been permitted to finish the meal.

ATTRACTS MEN OF WEALTH.

Homes of Millionaires Increasing in the Capital City.

The multi-millionaires' colony of Washington is growing at a rapid rate at present, and the influence of wealth in the society of the national capital is felt more and more with each session of congress. Bonanza kings of all the world seem to have a curious weakness for the beautiful American capital, writes J. C. Welliver, in the New York Herald.

Washington, with something less than 400,000 population, the capital of the richest nation on earth, is being rebuilt at a marvellous rate in marble and magnificence. Augustus Caesar left as his proudest boast that he found Rome in brick and left it in marble.

Thus the change which has come over Washington in recent years is one of the most interesting aspects of later day American developments. Americans are probably more familiar with the curious frontier town, neither northern nor southern, which was founded by the first president in a wilderness, captured and burned by the British in 1812, three or four times on the verge of capture by confederates during the war between the states, and which for nearly a century was in grave doubts whether it had a proper excuse for municipal existence, than they are with the beautiful modern city which is being developed there.

It is only within a decade and a half that wealth and society have recognized the possibilities of Washington. The national capital nowadays lays strong claim to the distinction of being the intellectual and the social as well as the political center of the nation. Thither go more and more of the authors, the literateurs, the scientists, the retired kings of trade and finance, the men who have distinguished themselves.

Specters Hard to Get Rid Of.

Washington is a city of many haunted houses. Scattered over the town are numerous dwellings, seemingly attractive enough, which remain year after year vacant and unrentable, to the disgust of their owners and the real estate agents. Once in awhile one of them is hired by strangers, or by some person who takes pride in lack of superstition and finds the low price asked a temptation. For a brief period it is inhabited, then abandoned with almost ludicrous precipitation, and shut up once more. Spooks at the national capital appear to be exceptionally industrious and persistent in the production of what experts in such matters term "phenomena," and usually there is only one satisfactory cure for the trouble, namely, to tear the specter-cursed building down. In one instance where this was done, however, the supernatural manifestations were located in the cellar, so that it was actually necessary to dig up the foundations in order to get rid of the ghosts.

SAY IT IS HAUNTED

CAPITAL DWELLING IN WHICH NO ONE WILL LIVE.

"Octagon House," at One Time Occupied by President and Dolly Madison, Is Structure Bearing Unenviable Reputation.

When Dolly Madison and her husband returned to Washington, in the year 1814, after the unwelcome visit of the British troops, they found the White House damaged to such an extent by fire that many months were required for the making of necessary repairs. During this interval they occupied a mansion, at that time the most imposing private dwelling in the city, which was called the Octagon house. It was situated, and stands to-day, on the northeast corner of Eighteenth street and New York avenue, says a writer in The Illustrated Sunday Magazine.

The house gets its name from the fact that it is octagonal in shape, and another of its architectural peculiarities is a large circular hall or reception room, into which a person entering is ushered immediately on passing through the front door. Directly above this hall and corresponding to it, on the second floor, is a spacious circular chamber, originally meant for a bedroom, which was made to serve for meetings of the cabinet during the occupancy of the establishment by the Madisons.

The Octagon house, which had been built by Col. Ogle Taylor, a man of ample fortune, was at this time a very comfortable place to live in. It had not yet acquired its subsequent unfortunate reputation as an abode for terrifying phantoms. Just how, and owing to what circumstances, the dwelling first became haunted is a question that seems to be wrapped up in a good deal of mystery. The fact is, however, that during a long period of years, and until quite recently, it remained unoccupied, save for brief intervals, though offered for rent at the merely nominal price of \$25 a month—simply on account of the supernatural manifestations which many credible persons declared they had witnessed within its walls.

According to the generally accepted story, the house was occupied at some period during the first half of the century by a cruel slave-owner, who in a fit of anger whipped a negro to death in the garden. Another version is that he starved or tortured his human chattel in the cellar of the mansion. But, at all events, there was a tragedy, still another tale being to the effect that the wicked man's daughter refused to marry in obedience to her father's wishes, and after a quarrel, which took place on the stairs, she either fell or was thrown down the steps and killed.

Whatever the truth of the matter may be, it is certain that the alleged spectral manifestations have been most particularly connected with the stairs, on which murmurs as of whispering in angry tones are heard at dead of night, followed by a sound of something falling. During its many years of non-occupancy small parties of venturesome persons did attempt occasionally to spend a night in the house, and in every instance, it is said, met with some terrifying experience. Meanwhile, though the place was certainly empty, many people passing along in the street in the daytime saw, or thought they saw, faces at the windows; and at night strange lights would move from room to room.

Pets of the White House.
Pete, a prize bull terrier, is by far the best known White House pet. He became famous for his liking, or, rather, dislike, of a member of the diplomatic corps, having on one occasion endeavored to make the ambassador climb a tree when that gentleman called at the White House to play tennis with the president. For his indiscretion on that occasion Pete was required to serve a term of banishment on Surgeon General Rixey's farm in Virginia.

Skip was the hunting dog which had been given the president, and when the dog was run over and killed by an automobile in Oyster Bay he was buried at Sagamore Hill. Skip, so the president says in one of his books, could climb trees, but Mr. Roosevelt failed to state whether that feat was accomplished by Skip on account of the attention paid him by Pete, who had a reputation for making things climb trees.

Thomas Stone, the chief usher at the White House, presented to Miss Ethel Roosevelt an English pup, Diamond, which is now the favorite at the White House. It cannot be said that he has succeeded to the position formerly occupied by Pete, but, then, Diamond is only five months old. The attaches at the White House are not inclined to speculate as to how Diamond's tastes will run.

Ban on Dual Earnings.
Uncle Sam has struck a blow at a class of professional men peculiar to Washington. An order has been issued prohibiting United States government clerks from swelling their incomes by practicing medicine or filling teeth on the side. It has for a long time been a common practice for department clerks to attend night colleges, and, after securing diplomas, practice professions after office hours.

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